

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended). A shaving blade unit comprising

a plastic housing having a front portion and a rear portion and two side surfaces extending from the front portion to the rear portion, the housing having a length extending from one side surface to the other side surface,

one or more shaving blades positioned between the front portion and the rear portion, the one or more blades having a blade length extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes, and

a guard at the front portion of the housing, the guard ~~including~~ comprising an elastomeric member that extends along a guard axis that is parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the elastomeric member having a length along the guard axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length, and wherein the elastomeric member also extends along a width axis, said width axis extending perpendicular to the guard axis and in a direction from said housing rear portion towards said housing front portion,

and wherein a leading portion (106) of the elastomeric member (100) extends beyond a leading edge of the front portion (108) of the plastic housing (20), said leading elastomer portion (106) being forward of a rear elastomer portion (102), said rear elastomer portion (102) being supported by the plastic housing (20), and wherein a width of the leading elastomer portion (106) exceeds a width of the supported rear elastomer portion (102).

2. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein the elastomeric member extends to the side surfaces of the housing.

3. (currently amended). The shaving blade unit of claim 2, wherein the elastomeric member extends over ~~the~~ exterior side surfaces of the housing.

4. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 3, wherein the elastomeric member forms a protrusion extending outwardly from at least one of the side surfaces.

5. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein the elastomeric member includes an elastomeric fin.
6. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 5, wherein the fin extends along a fin axis that is generally parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the fin having a length along the fin axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length.
7. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 5, wherein the fin is made of a material having a Shore A hardness between about 28 and 60.
8. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 5, wherein the elastomeric member includes multiple elastomeric fins.
9. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein the fins are arranged in parallel rows, the fins extending along respective fin axes that are parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, at least some of the fins having a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.
10. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 9, wherein all of the fins have a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.
11. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 9, wherein the fins have graduated lengths
12. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 11, wherein the fins closest to the blades have a length that is longer than the blade length, and the fin length decreases as distance from the blades increases
13. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein at least some of the fins have tips having increasing elevation with respect to a plane passing through an associated cutting edge of the one or more shaving blades in going from fins further from the one or more shaving blades to fins closer to the blades.
14. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 13, wherein at least some of the fins have tips above the plane, and some of the fins have tips below the plane.

15. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 13, wherein others of the fins have tips of generally uniform position relative to the plane.

16. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein the fins have converging surfaces having an included angle of between about 8 and 14 degrees.

17. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein a distance from a first fin to a last fin is between about 2.5 and 6 mm.

18. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein the fins have tips of a height between about 0.4 and 0.9 mm.

19. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein the elastomeric member includes at least about 10 fins.

20. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 19, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 15 fins.

21. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 19, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 20 fins.

22. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 1, further comprising a clip for retaining the one or more shaving blades, the clip being threaded through an opening positioned between the front and rear portions of the housing.

23. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 22, wherein first and second ends of the clip are threaded through respective first and second openings in the housing.

24. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein the elastomeric member is flexible.

25. (Cancelled). ~~The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein a leading portion of the elastomeric member extends beyond a leading edge of the front portion of the housing in a direction perpendicular to the guard axis and blade axis.~~

26. (currently amended). The shaving blade unit of claim 1 ~~25~~, wherein the leading portion is substantially unsupported along its length.

27. (currently amended). The shaving blade unit of claim 1 ~~25~~, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to deflect upon contact with a user's skin.

28. (currently amended). The shaving blade unit of claim 27, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to conform to a contour of the user's skin during shaving.

29. (currently amended). The shaving blade unit of claim 27, wherein the leading portion has a first thickness adjacent the side surfaces of the housing, and tapers to a second, lesser thickness adjacent a center region of the guard.

30. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein thickness of the elastomeric member varies along the guard axis.

31. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein the housing is connected to a pivoting structure to permit the one or more blades to pivot with respect to a handle.

32. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 1 further comprising a trimming assembly connected to the housing.

33. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 32, wherein the trimming assembly comprises a trimming blade.

34. (currently amended). A shaving blade unit comprising

a plastic housing having a front portion and a rear portion and two side surfaces extending from the front portion to the rear portion, each said two side surfaces having respective outwardly directed exterior surfaces, the plastic housing having a length extending from one side surface to the other side surface,

one or more shaving blades between the front portion and the rear portion, the one or more blades having a blade length extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes, and

a guard at the front portion of the housing, the guard ~~including~~ comprising an elastomeric member, the elastomeric member extending over at least one of the exterior side surfaces and along a guard axis that is parallel to the respective one or more blade axes.

35. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric member includes an elastomeric fin.

36. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 35, wherein the fin extends along a fin axis that is generally parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the fin having a length along the fin axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length.

37. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 35, wherein the fin is made of a material having a Shore A hardness between about 28 and 60.

38. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric member includes multiple elastomeric fins.

39. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein the fins are arranged in parallel rows, the fins extending along respective fin axes that are parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, at least some of the fins having a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.

40. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 39, wherein all of the fins have a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.

41. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 39, wherein the fins have graduated lengths.

42. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 41, wherein the fins closest to the blades have a length that is longer than the blade length, and the fin length decreases as distance from the blades increases.

43. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein at least some of the fins have tips having increasing elevation with respect to a plane passing through an associated cutting edge of the one or more shaving blades in going from fins further from the one or more shaving blades to fins closer to the blades.

44. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 43, wherein at least some of the fins have tips above the plane, and some of the fins have tips below the plane.

45. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 44, wherein others of the fins have tips of generally uniform position relative to the plane.

46. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein the fins have converging surfaces having an included angle of between about 8 and 14 degrees.

47. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein a distance from a first fin to a last fin is between about 4 mm.

48. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein the fins have tips of a height between about 0.4 and 0.9 mm.

49. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein the elastomeric member includes at least about 10 fins.

50. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 49, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 15 fins.

51. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 49, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 20 fins.

52. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 34, further comprising a clip for retaining the one or more shaving blades, the clip being threaded through an opening positioned between the front and rear portions of the housing.

53. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 52, wherein first and second ends of the clip are threaded through respective first and second openings in the housing.

54. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric member is flexible.

55. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein a leading portion of the elastomeric member extends beyond a leading edge of the front portion of the housing in a direction perpendicular to the guard axis and blade axis.

56. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 55, wherein the leading portion is substantially unsupported along its length.

57. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 55, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to deflect upon contact with a user's skin.

58. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 55, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to conform to a contour of the user's skin during shaving.

59. (currently amended). The shaving blade unit of claim 55, wherein the leading portion has a first thickness adjacent the side surfaces of the housing, and tapers to a second, lesser thickness ~~adjacent~~ at a center region of the guard.

60. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein thickness of the elastomeric member varies along the guard axis.

61. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the housing is connected to a pivoting structure to permit the one or more blades to pivot with respect to a handle.

62. (withdrawn). (currently amended). The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric member forms a projection extending from at least one of the exterior side surfaces.

63. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 34 further comprising a trimming assembly connected to the housing.

64. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 63, wherein the trimming assembly comprises a trimming blade.

65. (currently amended). A shaving blade unit comprising

a plastic housing having a front portion and a rear portion and two side surfaces extending from the front portion to the rear portion, the housing having a length extending from one side surface to the other side surface and a width perpendicular to the length,

one or more shaving blades between the front portion and the rear portion, the one or more blades having a blade length extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes, and

a guard ~~including~~ comprising an elastomeric member carried by the housing at the front portion of the housing and extending along a guard axis that is parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the guard having a width perpendicular to the guard axis extending beyond the width of the housing ,

and wherein, in a region of the elastomeric member extending beyond the width of the housing, the elastomeric member has a first thickness adjacent the side surfaces of the plastic housing and tapers continuously from the side surfaces to a second, lesser thickness at a center region of the guard.

66. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein the elastomeric member has a length along the guard axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length.

67. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein the elastomeric member extends over at least one of the side surfaces.

68. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 67, wherein the elastomeric member forms a projection extending from at least one of the side surfaces.

69. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 63, wherein the elastomeric member includes an elastomeric fin.

70. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 69, wherein the fin extends along a fin axis that is generally parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the fin having a length along the fin axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length.

71. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 69, wherein the fin is made of a material having a Shore A hardness between about 28 and 60.

72. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 67, wherein the elastomeric member includes multiple elastomeric fins.

73. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein the fins are arranged in parallel rows, the fins extending along respective fin axes that are parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, at least some of the fins having a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.

74. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 73, wherein all of the fins have a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.

75. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 73, wherein the fins have graduated lengths.

76. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 75, wherein the fins closest to the blades have a length that is longer than the blade length, and the fin length decreases as distance from the blades increases.

77. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein at least some of the fins have tips having increasing elevation with respect to a plane passing through an associated cutting edge of the one or more shaving blades in going from fins further from the one or more shaving blades to fins closer to the blades.

78. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 77, wherein at least some of the fins have tips above the plane, and some of the fins have tips below the plane.

79. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 78, wherein others of the fins have tips of generally uniform position relative to the plane.

80. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein the fins have converging surfaces having an included angle of between about 8 and 14 degrees.

81. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein a distance from a first fin to a last fin is between about 4 mm.

82. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein the fins have tips of a height between about 0.4 and 0.9 mm.

83. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein the elastomeric member includes at least about 10 fins.

84. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 83, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 15 fins.

85. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 83, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 20 fins.

86. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 65, further comprising a clip for retaining the one or more shaving blades, the clip being threaded through an opening positioned between the front and rear portions of the housing.

87. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 86, wherein first and second ends of the clip are threaded through respective first and second openings in the housing.

88. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein the elastomeric member is flexible.

89. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein a leading portion of the elastomeric member is substantially unsupported along its length.

90. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 89, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to deflect upon contact with a user's skin.

91. (original). The shaving blade unit of claim 89, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to conform to a contour of the user's skin during shaving.

92. (currently amended). The shaving blade unit of claim 89, wherein the leading portion has a first thickness adjacent the side surfaces of the housing, and tapers to a second, lesser thickness ~~adjacent~~ at a center region of the guard

93. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein thickness of the elastomeric member varies along the guard axis.

94. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein the housing is connected to a pivoting structure to permit the one or more blades to pivot with respect to a handle.

95. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 65 further comprising a trimming assembly connected to the housing.

96. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 95, wherein the trimming assembly comprises a trimming blade.

97. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 1, 34 or 65, wherein the elastomeric member includes one or more fins extending along a fin axis parallel to the blade axes and within a frame defined by the elastomeric member.

98. (withdrawn). The shaving blade unit of claim 97, wherein the elastomeric member defines a groove positioned between the frame and the fins, the frame separating ends of the one or more fins from the frame.

99. (currently amended). A shaving razor comprising:

a handle; and

a shaving cartridge including connection structure connecting the cartridge to the handle, the shaving cartridge comprising

a plastic housing having a front portion and a rear portion and two side surfaces extending from the front portion to the rear portion, the housing having a length extending from one side surface to the other side surface,

one or more shaving blades positioned between the front portion and the rear portion, the one or more blades having a blade length extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes, and

a guard at the front portion of the housing, the guard ~~including~~ comprising an elastomeric member that extends along a guard axis that is parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the elastomeric member having a length along the guard axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length, and wherein the elastomeric member also extends along a width axis, said width axis extending perpendicular to the guard axis and in a direction from said housing rear portion towards said housing front portion.

and wherein a leading portion (106) of the elastomeric member (100) extends beyond a leading edge of the front portion (108) of the plastic housing (20), said leading elastomer portion (106) being forward of a rear elastomer portion (102), said rear elastomer portion (102) being supported by the plastic housing (20), and wherein a width of the leading elastomer portion (106) exceeds a width of the supported rear elastomer portion (102).

100. (withdrawn). The shaving razor of claim 99, wherein the shaving cartridge is permanently connected to the handle.

101. (original). The shaving razor of claim 99, wherein the shaving cartridge is removably connected to the handle by the connection structure.

102. (New). The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric member extends over both exterior side surfaces.

103. (New). A shaving blade unit, comprising

a plastic housing having a front portion and a rear portion and two side surfaces extending from the front portion to the rear portion, the plastic housing having a length extending from one side surface to the other side surface, said plastic housing defining a connection structure adapted to connect the blade unit to a handle,

one or more shaving blades positioned between the front portion and the rear portion, the one or more blades having a blade length extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes, and

a guard at the front portion of the housing, the guard comprising an elastomeric member that extends along a guard axis that is parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the elastomeric member having a length along the guard axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length, and

wherein the elastomeric member extends along a width axis, said width axis extending perpendicular to the blade axes and in a direction from said housing rear portion towards said housing front portion, said elastomeric member covering substantially an entire upper surface of the plastic housing from a forwardmost portion of the shaving blade unit rearward to a location forward of a normal projection of said connection structure onto said width axis.

104. (New). The shaving blade unit of claim 103, wherein the connecting structure is formed as a bearing surface defining a pivot axis (70) about which the plastic housing is pivotally supportable.